

RHODE ISLAND CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

19  86

GET THE FACTS KNOW THE ISSUES

Shall the action of the Constitutional Convention in amending the Constitution in the following manner be ratified and approved?

1 REWRITE OF THE PRESENT CONSTITUTION

- YES Shall the Constitution of 1843 and the 44 amendments ratified since then be adopted as rewritten, in proper order, with annulled sections removed? Shall the Constitutional Convention publish the Constitution in proper form, including new amendments, if they are approved by the voters? (Resolution 86-00042 B)
- NO

2 JUDICIAL SELECTION AND DISCIPLINE

- YES Shall a non-partisan, independent commission be established to nominate judges for appointment by the general assembly in the case of supreme court vacancies and for appointment by the governor in the case of vacancies in other courts? Shall the commission have authority to discipline or remove all judges? Shall judges appointed hereafter be required to retire at 72 years of age? Shall the duty of the supreme court to give advisory opinions be abolished? (Resolution 86-00080 A)
- NO

3 LEGISLATIVE PAY AND MILEAGE

- YES Shall the daily pay of general assembly members be established at a sum equal to the average weekly wage of Rhode Island manufacturing workers, divided by a four-day legislative week (about \$76), the speaker receiving twice that amount; and shall mileage compensation be equal to the rate paid U.S. government employees, such pay and mileage to be limited to 60 days per year? (Resolution 86-00094 B)
- NO

4 FOUR-YEAR TERMS AND RECALL

- YES Beginning in 1988, shall the governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, general treasurer and members of the general assembly be elected to four-year terms and be subject to recall by voters? (Resolution 86-00028 A)
- NO

5 VOTER INITIATIVE

- YES Shall voters be empowered to petition certain laws and/or constitutional amendments onto the ballot for voter approval or rejection? Shall future constitutional convention candidates be elected on a non-partisan basis? (Resolutions 86-00001 B, 86-00136)
- NO

6 ETHICS IN GOVERNMENT

- YES Shall more specific impeachment standards be established? Shall an ethics commission be established with authority to adopt a code of ethics and to discipline or remove public officials and employees found in violation of that code? Shall the general assembly adopt limits on campaign contributions and shall the general assembly enact a voluntary system of public campaign financing, coupled with limitations on total campaign spending by participating candidates? (Resolutions 86-00047 A, 86-00060 A, 86-00145 A)
- NO

7 BUDGET POWERS AND EXECUTIVE SUCCESSION

- YES Shall the governor be constitutionally empowered to present an annual budget? Shall the speaker of the house become governor if both the governor and lieutenant governor die or are unable to serve? (Resolutions 86-00222, 86-00246)
- NO

8 RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE

- YES Shall free speech, due process and equal protection clauses be added to the Constitution? Shall the state or those doing business with the state be prohibited from discriminating against persons solely on the basis of race, gender or handicap? Shall victims of crime have constitutionally endowed rights, including the right to compensation from perpetrators? Shall individual rights protected by the state constitution stand independent of the U.S. Constitution? (Resolutions 86-00033, 86-00032, 86-00140, 86-00002 B, 86-00171)
- NO

9 SHORE USE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- YES Shall rights of fishery and privileges of the shore be described and shall the powers of the state and local government to protect those rights and the environment be enlarged? Shall the regulation of land and waters for these purposes not be deemed a public use of private property? (Resolutions 86-00003, 86-00004A)
- NO

10 FELON OFFICE HOLDING AND VOTING

- YES Shall felons' voting rights, removed upon conviction, be restored upon completion of sentence and probation or parole? Shall felons and certain misdemeanants be banned from holding office for three years after completion of sentence and probation or parole? (Resolutions 86-00149 A, 86-00025 B)
- NO

11 LIBRARIES

- YES Shall it be a duty of the general assembly to promote public libraries and library services? (Resolution 86-00098)
- NO

12 BAIL

- YES Shall the courts be authorized to deny bail to persons accused of the unlawful sale or distribution of controlled substances punishable by a sentence of ten years or more? (Resolution 86-00153 B)
- NO

13 HOME RULE

- YES Shall cities and towns with charters have more authority over local affairs, within the limits of the General Laws, including the power to tax and borrow with local voter approval (unless overridden by a three-fifths vote in the general assembly); to protect public health, safety, morals and the environment; to regulate local businesses and local planning and development? Shall new or increased tax exemptions pertaining to cities and towns be subject to local voter approval? Shall cities and towns be reimbursed for certain state-mandated programs? Shall charter adoption and amendment procedures be simplified? (Resolution 86-00196 B)
- NO

14 PARAMOUNT RIGHT TO LIFE/ABORTION

- YES To the extent permitted by the U.S. Constitution, shall all persons, including their unborn offspring, without regard to age, health, function, or condition of dependency, be endowed with an inalienable and paramount right to life; and to the extent permitted by the U.S. Constitution, shall abortion be prohibited, except that justified medical procedures to prevent the death of a pregnant woman shall be permitted? Shall the use of government monies to fund abortions be prohibited by the Constitution? (Resolution 86-00212 A)
- NO

VOTE
ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4th